

March 22, 2009

SWARTHMORE, PA—Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) spoke at a fundraiser for the A Better Chance Strath Haven Chapter held on March 22, 2009, at Swarthmore College. The Strath Haven chapter of ABC was founded in 1975 to provide educational opportunities to disadvantaged youth.

“An achievement gap still persists in Pennsylvania and across the nation, but because of the efforts of organizations like ABC, that gap is closing and will continue to close,” said Congressman Sestak. “Education is the cornerstone of the future prosperity, well being, and even safety of this nation, and organizations like this one are leading the way to a bright future for ourselves and our children.”

Congressman Sestak has supported a wide range of legislative initiatives to bolster the education security of our nation. Among other efforts, he fought for full funding for the Head Start program, which was dramatically underfunded during the previous administration; voted for the Higher Education Opportunity Act to support grants and education initiatives; strengthened No Child Left Behind by co-sponsoring the Keeping our Promise to America's Children and Teachers Act, which would fully fund NCLB, another chronically underfunded education initiative; and co-sponsored the Teaching Fellows Act, which would support scholarships and programs for students who want to go into teaching.

In February, Congressman Sestak hosted an Education and Economy Summit that brought together area educators, business leaders, and others interested in improving education in our region and nation. The summit featured panel discussions on Early Childhood Education, Special Education, Middle and High School Education, and the intersection of these programs with the needs and expectations of businesses and institutions of higher learning.

A Better Chance is “the oldest and only national organization of its kind changing the life trajectory for academically talented youth of color via access to rigorous and prestigious educational opportunities for students in grades 6-12.” Its mission is to increase substantially the number of well-educated young people of color who are capable of assuming positions of responsibility and leadership in American society. They carry out their mission through the College Preparatory Schools Program, which annually recruits, refers, and supports about 500

Scholars at more than 300 Member Schools in 27 states. The organization was founded in 1963, and since then more than 12,000 alumni have now gone on to distinguished careers as physicians, artists, educators, lawyers, politicians and corporate executives.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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